

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

MCCOLLUM, Betty (Democrat)
Representative, 4th District, Minnesota
Elected 2000 to 107th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: Minneapolis, Minnesota -- 12 July 1954
Home: St. Paul, Minnesota
Marital status: Married (Douglas) - two children
Religion: Roman Catholic
Education: Inver Hills Community College, A.A., 1980; College of St. Catherine,
B.A., 1987
Military: None
Profession: Substitute teacher; retail sales
Political: North St. Paul City Council, 1987-92; Minnesota House, 1993-2000
(assistant majority leader, 1995-2000). Defeated Linda Runbeck (R) with 48% of the
vote to succeed Rep Bruce F. Vento (D), who died. Reelected in 2002 with 62% of
the vote.

Rep McCollum, a liberal, focused on health care and the environment while in
State offices. Expected to continue the legacy of her predecessor. Also has been an
advocate for organized labor, women and children's issues, education, medical
research, minimum wage increases, and seniors and veterans issues. Campaigned
on a prescription drug benefit for medicare recipients, agriculture reform,
preserving Social Security, gun control, and targeted tax cuts.

In the 107th Congress, supported the FY02 Defense approps resolution, stating, "I
believe it is our responsibilities as lawmakers to ensure the readiness and quality of
life of our military by providing these forces with the necessary resources,
equipment, and training." However, she noted strong reservations against selected
funding in areas such as national missile defense, which she characterized as
'unproven.' Co-sponsored 'concurrent receipt' resolution and a resolution calling for
the restoration of health care coverage for retired members of the uniformed
services. Voted against HJ Res 87, calling for the establishment of a radioactive
waste and spent nuclear fuel disposal site at Yucca Mountain, NV, which
subsequently passed the House and Senate. Remarkd that she could not support
it until the US develops a national policy to reduce additional nuclear waste.

In the 108th Congress, elected Midwest Regional Whip and appointed to the
Democratic Steering Committee.

AF Bases: Minneapolis-St. Paul (ANG/AFRES)

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